DO ALL THAT YOU CAN.

"I cannot do much," said a little star, To make this dark world bright My silvery beams cannot pierce far Into the gloom of night; Yet I am a part of God's great plan, And so I will do the best that I can.

"What can be the use," said a fleecy cloud. "Of these few drops that I hold? They will hardly bend the hly proud If caught in her chalce of gold, But I, too, am part of God's great plan, So my treasures I'll give as well as I cam'

A child went merrily forth to play, But a thought, like a silver thread Hept winding in and out all day
Through the happy golden head—
"Mother said, 'Darling, do all that you can,
For you are a part of God's great plan,'"

She knew no more than the twinkling star, Or the cloud with its rain cup full. How, why or for what all strange things are; She was only a child at school. But she thought, "'Tis a part of God's great

That even I should do all that I can."

So she helped another child along When the way was rough to his feet, And she sang from her heart a little song That we all thought wondrous sweet, And her father—a weary, toll worn man—Said, "I, too, will do the best that I can."
—Mrs. M. E. Sangster.

THE RIVALS.

Through their own efforts Sang Lumford and Matt King had stocked a ranch. The ranch was small, but their cattle were choice, and their grass and water were of the best; besides, they were hustlers, and their expenses for hire were very small, which increased their income consid-

At the time of which we write 50 miles in every direction from where one lived was called a neighborhood in Texas. There were some who increased the distance to 75 and even 100 miles, but these were few, and their ponies were exceptionally good, for the area of a neighborhood then generally covered as much ground as a man could ride over in a day in one direction without too much exertion.

The nearest neighbor to Sang and Matt lived 10 miles away across the river, and there, it is unnecessary to say, they were frequent visitors as long as the floods in the river would allow them to cross over. Mr. Tobin's family was an interesting and rather numerous one, with a lot of girls ranging in age from babyhood to budding maidenhood. For a year Matt and Sang had watched pretty Nellie Tobin grow and bud and blush, until she had become in their eyes the fairest and sweetest little maid that ever lived.

It was not long, therefore, before the two bachelor ranchmen began to look upon each other as rivals for the hand and heart of Nellie. At first it was all fun and merriment, the one joking the other about some little advantage he had gained on the previous visit. Meanwhile they worked all the harder and looked after their interests closer, so that when they should bring Nellie home there would be no lack of the wherewithall to make her comfortable and

happy. It is unnecessary to say perhaps that each had made up his mind to win Nellie for his own, neither one thinking the other had even the

smallest chance of getting her. Then came the spring freshet, and they were confined to their own side of the river-shut out, it seemed to them, from all the rest of the world. It was then that the first discon-

tent came between them. Both became cross as the proverbial bear, and the least thing that went wrong the one would blame the other. So they had little quarreling spats and were as unhappy as only two unreasoning fellows in love with the same girl could possibly be.

Sang was naturally quiet, with very little resentment in his nature and of very few words. He was big and ungainly, slow in his throughts and movements, but a giant in strength. Usually he was easy to get along with, and there were not a few who, behind his back, said that he was a coward at heart, for there had been times when the tears had sprung to his eyes when some drunken rowdy had taken a fancy to abuse him. Only once had he been known to use his great strength and assert himself, and that was when a so called desperado proposed to give him a good whipping with a quirt. Then Sang, in a moment of excitement, had picked the fellow up at arm's length and flung him against the side of a house with such force that when he recovered his senses and found no bones in his body were actually broken he had slunk away and was never seen in that part of the

country again. Matt, on the other hand, was small, quick of motion and fiery in temperament and was considered the most daring rider and the most expert with the lasso of any rancher in that part of the country. He was quick to take offense and as quick to forgive after having eased his mind by pouring out a torrent of words upon

the offender. Taken altogether, Sang Lumford and Matt King were just about on an average with men one meets everywhere in everyday life, well suited to each other and likely to make a success of the business in which they might engage, provided they did not fall in love with the same girl at the

same time. One day when the river was at its highest, and the two men were as miserable as it is possible for men to be, Matt burst out: "Confound this high water! I wish there wasn't a

drop of it for a thousand miles large coil of new rope with him, around."

To this ridiculous wish, which their business, Sang assented. "Huh, huh," he said.

"I bet I'll have Nellie here with me before there is another freshet in the river," cried Matt.

"Me, too," said Sang. "You?"

"Reckon so, if she'll have me." "You don't think she would marry

you, do you?" asked Matt. looking his partner over from head to foot scornfully. "Don't know. Thought I'd ask

"Ha! ha! ha!" laughed Matt. But his laugh was so offensive that even stoical Sang reddened in the face.

"You'll see," he cried. "Danged if I don't cross the river tomorrow and ask her. "You're too durned slow, Sang,"

sneered Matt. "Tomorrow never comes. "That's all right. It'll come soon enough for you, and I ain't no proph-

et neither. marry a little girl like Nellie Tobin. tion on our part." If I had just the least thought that you dared to insult her by asking her, I'd

kill you right where you stand." Matt was angry now and his dark eyes flashed dangerously as he looked

defiantly at his partner. "D-n you!" roared Sang. "I have taken all I am going to take from you, so you better keep your mouth

Sang was white in the face as he turned around and walked out of the a horse, saddled him and rode away toward the river.

Half an hour later Matt also left the house on horseback, but headed vor. farther up the river than Sang had

It was late that night when Sang returned home, dripping wet. He went into the house and looked around, but there was no sign of Matt, and as the latter did not return

Sang soon went to bed and to sleep. During the night, however, he woke up, and finding that Matt had not yet come back he began to feel uneasy and did not close his eyes again till morning dawned gray and cloudy and with a fine sprinkling of

As the daylight increased so did also the rain, and by the time the sun should have been up it was pouring down in torrents. Sang felt ill at ease and walked about restlessly, peering out through the rain in every direction, hoping he would see Matt returning. Hour after hour he watched and waited in vain, until at last he could stand it no longer and left the house.

As he had done the day before, he rode down toward the river, and as he rode along he muttered to him-

self "What a pair of fools we have been to fall out as we did, just for noth ing! I wish Matt would come back so that I might tell him."

Then he smiled grimly in his old way, and in spite of the pouring rain

rode on toward the river. "I reckon Matt will flare up like thunder, as is usual with him, when he finds out," he mused. "It was a hard pull to swim across the river yesterday, but it was a good thing Matt made me mad, or I wouldn't be able to do it today, after all this rain. Lordy! What a joke it will be on Matt, and he so sure that Nellie would jump right into his arms, too.

as soon as he asked her!" The water was roaring down every gully and ravine and went rushing toward the river, swelling it every moment. As Sang approached the river he could hear the angry roar of the water as it forced its way over and through the "raft" of uprooted trees and drift that had lodged in the bend below the ranch and had grown steadily for perhaps hundreds o

When Sang reached the river, he was surprised to see how it had riser since the day before. Old logs and trees came whirling down the might; flood, spinning round and round in the eddies before being hurled agains and over the raft, a little distance be

The water was rushing over every thing, and only one huge tree, which had lodged in the raft with its root in the air, was visible above it Among the roots, which seemed to writhe and twist like serpents in the still pouring rain, Sang thought he could see something move and ges ticulate, and a faint cry reached hi ears above the roar of the water.

"Dang my picture if that ain' Matt," he shouted, unconscious o the loud tone he used. On his way would do him, and I would tell hir so pretty quick if I could just reac

Matt was standing up now amon the twisted roots, waving his arm

"Lordy!" cried Sang, "if this ha been yesterday, I guess I wouldn have moved a finger to try to sav him. But I can afford to pull hir ashore now, if for nothing else, juto laugh at him. But I must hurr up, or the water will rise and was

"Hold fast for your life, I'll b back directly," he shouted as he rod back the way he had come as fast a the horse could run.

When Sang returned, he brought London Tit-Bits.

which he proceeded to recoil care fully into two piles. When this was would virtually break them up in done, he made one end of the rope fast securely around a tree and the other around his body. Then he picked up one pile of the rope and hung it carefully over his arm and

walked coolly into the water. Straight out he swam, with the sure stroke of an expert and powerful swimmer, until the rope on the bank had all run out. Then, coil by coil, he let the rope on his arm slip off also, while the current carried him downward toward the old snag and Matt. When only a few coils of the rope remained upon his arm, he reached it in safety.

"I didn't think you would come and help me," said Matt faintly as he grasped the outstretched hand of his friend. "Do you know, Sang, I wouldn't have done this much for you

yesterday!" "Neither would I, Matt," said Sang. But today it is different. Now, how ever, we must be getting away from here while we can. Just let me make the end of the rope fast around your "Why, the idea!" cried Matt. "A body, and the current will soon swing great big gawk like you wanting to us into the bank without much exer-

> Matt was weak and worn from long exposure and anxiety and submitted quietly to everything Sang proposed. When all was ready, they let themselves down into the water and in a few minutes were safely landed by the current against the

The evening sun was shining brightly when Matt awoke from a sound

sleep much refreshed. "I was thinking it all over last house. He went to the corral, caught | night among the roots of that old tree, Sang, and made up my mind if I got away from there alive to give up my interest in Nellie in your fa-

"That's you, Matt, but I don't want t," said Sang, laughing. "I would like to know, however, how you come to choose such a place as that

to roost in?" "Well, after the words we had yesterday and when you left me I made up my mind to go across the river and beat you to Nellie. I attempted to swim my horse over and started in all right. When we were about half way across, a drifting treetop caught us and got us tangled up. The horse got away from me and made it over safely; but, as you know, I am not much of a swimmer, and so for safety I hung onto the tree. The tree and I struck the old snag where you found me this morning, and I climbed up among the roots to keep from going over the

"Just what I thought," grinned Sang. Then he added, "I went over to Tobin's yesterday evening and came back last night.

"What did Nellie say?" eagerly. "Nothing."

"Didn't you ask her?"

"No. "Why?"

"Didn't like to go to the trouble. Thought I would come home and sell out to you," and Sang laughed merrily.

"What will you take to never go near her again?" asked Matt ear-

"Cow and calf," replied Sang.
"It is a bargain," cried Matt. "But a dear one to you."

"Why?" "Nellie was married last week to Ned Spriggs, from Cow Creek, and

moved over there the next day. "What a pair of fools we have been," both exclaimed in one breath. -John P. Sjolander in Philadelphia

A Ghost Story.

I was going by rail from Goldsboro to Wilmington, N. C. It was on a beautiful moonlight night, and I happened to look out of the window by my seat just as something white came out of the woods. It followed right along by the side of the train, and I called the attention of the other passengers to it. Every one saw it just as plainly as I did, so it could not have been a hallucination.

"The specter kept pace with the train, and, wonderful to relate, would sometimes run a little ahead, cross the track in front of the engine, and run along the other side. Then it would disappear altogether for awhile, but to return again after a few minutes."

"Was it the spirit of some poor wretch who had lost his life on the railroad?" asked a young man. "No, sir," replied the colonel. "It

was nothing but a white sandy road in the woods."_ And then the crowd dispersed .-

I'acoma News.

A Strange Poreshadowing. A strange foreshadowing occurred n the life of Plumer Ward, the novlist. In one of his works, "De Vere," ne delineated a character many of he incidents in whose career were ounded on passages in the author's wn life. Hunting for a name for he abode of this gentleman, he hanced on "Okeover Hall," on which

se fixed. Years afterward, by one of those add chances which happen oftener in real life than in fiction, Mr. Ward found himself, as guardian of his wife's only son, the master of that very "Okeover Hall," the name of which he had picked from among thousand others in a road book -

What They Got.

When Artemus Ward died, the press of England and America was filled with tributes to his memory. In New York a meeting of newspaper people of England and America was filled York a meeting of newspaper people was held, at which it was resolved that his memory should be perpetu ated. The manner in which this was done was amusingly illustrated by a story told in Harper's Magazine some years ago. Whether or not the anecdote would be true today. was held, at which it was resolved we do not know.

A few summers ago I passed a week's vacation at Waterford, Me., and during my visit went to the village graveyard to view the final rest ing place of Artemus Ward.

With some trouble I found the grave, there being nothing about the plain white slab to distinguish it from many similar ones around While thinking and wondering that no monument had ever been erected to the humorist, a countryman approached, to whom I said:

'My friend, can you tell me why it is that Artemus never has had a monument erected to his memory?" "Well, stranger, I guess I kin," was the reply. "You see, arter Artemus died 300 or 400 printer fellers down in New York city got together and passed some beautiful resolutions, saying that Artemus should have a monument, and they would pay for it then and there, and then they took up a collection, which amounted to \$20.60, so I'm told, and since then this town hain't seen either the monument or the money; but, stranger, we did get a copy of the resolutions."—Youth's Companion.

The Earth's Millions.

today consists of about 1,450,000,000 a strong solution of salt and water, souls-not fewer, probably more. These are distributed literally all over the earth's surface, there being no considerable spot on the globe where man has not found a foothold. In Asia, the so called "cradle of the human race," there are now about 800,000,000 people densely crowded on an average of about 120 to every

square mile. In Europe there are 320,000,000, averaging 100 to the square mile, not so crowded as Asia, but everywhere dense, and in many places overpopulated. In Africa there are, approximately, 210,000,000, and in the Americas-North, South and Central-110,-000,000, these latter of course relatively thinly scattered over broad On the islands, large and small, there are probably 10,000,000

The extremes of the blacks and the whites are as five to three, the remaining 700,000,000 intermediate, brown, yellow and tawny in color. Of the entire race 500,000,000 are well clothed-that is, they wear garments of some kind that will cover nakedness-250,000,000 habitually go naked, and 700,000,000 only cover the middle part of the body; 500,000,000 live in houses, 700,000,000 in huts and caves, the remaining 250,000,000 virtually having no place to lay their heads.-Philadelphia Call.

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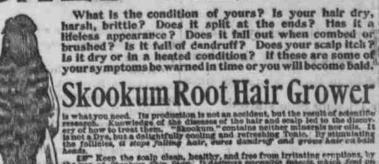
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